

## Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 INR-10 SSO-00 NSC-10

USIE-00 PM-07 SS-15 RSC-01 INRE-00 NSAE-00 IO-13

DPW-01 L-03 H-03 AID-20 PA-03 PRS-01 RSR-01 /138 W

----- 044768

O R 091216Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5312

INFO WHITE HOUSE

CIA

DIA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

RUHHRGA/CINCUSARPAC

CINCPACAF

CINCPACFLT

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

CDR 13 AF ADVON UDORN

USDEL JEC PARIS

SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 5560

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PGOV, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA, US, VN, XC

SUBJECT: THE LAO CEASEFIRE - 24TH WEEK

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

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REF: VIENTIANE 5388

I. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

MILITARY COMBAT ACTIVITY IN LAOS INCREASED DURING THE 24TH WEEK OF CEASEFIRE. SEVENTEEN INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED, ALL IN SOUTHERN LAOS, INCLUDING ONE MAJOR INCIDENT IN BOTH MR'S III AND IV. THERE WAS A CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN CASUALTIES, WITH FAR SUSTAINING 8 KIA, 10 WIA, 12 MIA AND ENEMY SUFFERING 17 KIA AND 35 WIA. RLAF FLEW 16 T-28 SORTIES THIS WEEK AGAINST ENEMY POSITIONS AND TROOP CONCENTRATIONS. COMBAT ACTIONS IN MR-III CONTINUED TO BE CENTERED IN XE XANG XOY SECTOR/BAN BUN XANG (WD 4115), WITH ONE MAJOR AND THREE MINOR INCIDENTS REPORTED. MAJOR ENGAGEMENT, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN KHONG SEDONE AREA OF MR-IV, MAY HAVE BEEN PROVOKED BY FAR OPERATING OUT OF ITS REGULAR AREA (XC 0432). THE INCIDENT WAS ONE OF SHARPEST CLASHES IN THAT AREA SINCE CEASEFIRE AND ACCOUNTED FOR MAJORITY OF WEEK'S CASUALTIES.

II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

A. TWENTY-FOURTH WEEK OF LAO CEASEFIRE WAS MARKED BY ALMOST DAILY MEETINGS BETWEEN THE TWO LAO PARTIES. ON RLG SIDE, MILITARY (FAR) AND OTHER CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS HAVE DISPLAYED INCREASING ANXIETY OVER MILITARY PART OF THE PROTOCOL AND HAVE BEEN PUSHING FOR FURTHER LPF CONCESSIONS; FOR EXAMPLE, ON THE NUMBER AND POSITIONING OF DEMARCATION STAKES IN "HOT SPOTS" WHERE RLG AND PATHET LAO TROOPS REMAIN CLOSE TO ONE ANOTHER.

B. PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA EVENTUALLY WILL BE CALLED UPON TO RESOLVE THESE REMAINING DIFFICULTIES. PRIME MINISTER PREDICTED, AUGUST 7, THAT PROTOCOLS WILL BE SIGNED BY AUGUST 15. HE WAS QUOTED BY LAO PRESSE AS TELLING GERMAN TV CORRESPONDENT THAT LAO REUNIFICATION WILL BE NO PROBLEM "BECAUSE SO-CALLED MARXIST FORCES ARE, FIRST OF ALL, NATIONALISTS." LAO PRESSE, AUGUST 9, REPORTS PHENG PHONGSAVAN'S STATEMENT THAT THE FORMATION OF THE NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED "WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CONSTITUTION, THAT IS TO SAY, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY." PHENG SAID NEW PGNU COULD BE FORMED WITHIN TEN DAYS, IF NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE PRESENT PACE; BUT HE REFUSED TO CONSIDER AUGUST 15 A DEADLINE FOR AGREEMENT, SAYING THAT "LAO MATTERS OUGHT TO BE RESOLVED AMONG LAO WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM OUTSIDE EVENTS."

C. COMMENT: POLITICAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN LPF AND RLG APPEAR TO HAVE  
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BEEN RESOLVED, AND ALTHOUGH A FEW MILITARY QUESTIONS REMAIN, IT APPEARS THAT LAO INTERNAL TALKS ARE NEAR CONCLUSION.  
DEAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review History:** RELEASED <20-Sep-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2002 by golinofr>  
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**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** MOPS, PGOV, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA, US, VN, XC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005